

THE PULSE

OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE NEW YORK HOSPITAL — CORNELL MEDICAL CENTER, NEW YORK and WHITE PLAINS, N. Y.

Special Holiday Edition — January, 1951

MEET THE WINNERS!



Photos by Percy W. Brooks and staff

TWO CHAMPS

(Above): Former polio patient, Jo Chasin, shows how he decorated the walls of L-8 pool with a piece of chalk tied to a window pole while receiving treatment for his paralyzed legs. Physiotherapist Gloria Jasberg, who colored the sketches, looks on. (Left): H-4's concept — made from old bed sheets, crepe paper, assorted medical equipment.



THE THING!

The prancing heard in the halls of NYH on Thursday, Dec. 21, was not Santa and his reindeer on an early visit; it was the sound of judges' feet as the esteemed ladies made their rounds inspecting the 55 units registered in the Christmas Decorations Contest.

Warned to wear walking shoes, the ladies had no complaints about tired feet at the end of "Judgment Day," even though some of them stuck to their opera pumps. Nevertheless, it was conservatively estimated that each judge had "hiked" about three miles that day.

"We were so carried away by the ingenuity of patients and staff and the cooperation between the two groups that we didn't have time to think about our feet," observed a spokesman for the group.

The judges were: Mrs. Stanhope Bayne-Jones and Mrs. Henry N. Pratt, wives of our administrators; Mrs. A. Conger Goodyear, wife of a Governor and herself on the membership committee of the Board of Governors; Miss Isabel de Aróstegui, Mrs. Henry Herrmann, Mrs. Louise Kahler, Mrs. B. C. Forbes, and Mrs. Robert Moskin, all outstanding Volunteers, and Mrs. Maynard C. Ivison, director of Public Relations.

As you probably know, first prizes — poinsettia plants — went to H-4; M-3; N-4; 4-N, Payne Whitney; L-814 (therapy pool), and Blood Bank. Honorable mentions were given to F-11 and G-3, Main Hospital; M-1; N-2; 7-S, Payne Whitney; Vincent Astor Diagnostic Service and Woman's Clinic OPD, Clinics, and Accounting Department.

Brief descriptions of the winning decorations follow on pages 2 and 4.

The Winners

Clinics: L-814

A former polio patient at NYH, paralyzed from the waist down, knelt in the warm water of this therapeutic pool for an hour on each of four days and, using a five-foot window pole capped with a piece of chalk, sketched in the Christmas decorations on the walls. *Jo Chasin*, advertising manager of Beabout Mills by profession and an artist by avocation, said he decorated the pool to show his appreciation for the "fine way in which the people here have treated me." A combat engineer in World War II, he was stricken with polio in '49 and spent eight months here as a patient; now he comes in daily for treatments, driving over in his hand-controlled car. The decorations on the pool walls represent teamwork by Mr. Chasin and his physiotherapist, *Gloria Jasberg*, who did the unusual coloring in the sketches. The theme of the decorations was "Christmas in the Tropics," inspired by the high temperature of the room. Santa Claus, stripped down to a pair of bathing trunks, is portrayed as a pot-bellied old gent with scrawny knees; instead of a sleigh he rides a swan and is driven by fish instead of reindeer. The "Three Wise Men" are shown riding whales; the cherubs and seraphs cavort on the walls in a minimum of clothing, too, and the traditional New Year "baby" rides into 1951 on a tugboat.

Main Hospital: H-4

Everyone who strolled down the streets of the "Village of Christmas Cheer" will agree that it deserved the rave notices given by the judges. The business section boasted all the conveniences of a village *but* the barber shop, complete with barber pole (white sheet draped around an irrigating pole, red crepe paper stripes, and a lighted balloon globe), offered "free backrubs to all"; the theater gave only one showing — on Dec. 25, featuring Santa; the Reindeer Toy and Game Shop offered toys "free to all good boys and girls"; an "Eat Shop" sign led into the pavilion pantry. An arrow from the windows of Noel, Noel and Noel, Jewelers, pointed to the correct time — on the corridor clock. Santa's Cheery Meat Shop windows spelled out the season's greetings in sausages — the red and green crepe paper variety. Halfway down the street

was a fire hydrant and, of course, a dog. The nurses' station became a "bazaar" with the addition of tree ornaments and X-ray film poinsettias cut and strung on chenille streamers by patients. In the residential section, a pair of lonely male patients advertised two vacancies on a sign outside the "Empty Arms Apartments."

Idea man for the project was *Dr. Seymour Reichlin*, assisted by these staff members: *Drs. James M. Colville and Saul Blattman*; Nurses *Edythe Giblin, Alma Tagliabue, Mary Dixon, Helen LaPorte, Mary Olguin, Mary Roberts, Eva Watson, Dorothy Patt, Marion Mommer*; student nurses *Helen Grinwis and Jane Goostray*; *Emily Rickey*, floor clerk; *David Reed*, orderly, and *Winifred Nathan and Margaret Dennis*, Social Service.

Pediatrics: N-4

Decorations on this floor were done by the youngsters themselves, most of whom had to spend Christmas in our Hospital. The children told the story of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" on the outer windows and doors of their rooms, painting the figure of their reindeer hero with the aid of stencils. The playroom became "Santa's Workshop." The youngsters sat a stuffed Santa at a desk writing down his list of the good boys and girls on N-4 while one of his elfin aides stood by stuffing toys into Santa's sack. Some of the youngsters painted the glass partitions inside their rooms, too. A giant cotton snowman near the N Building elevators was the staff's main contribution.

Woman's Clinic: M-3

A large cardboard doll house inhabited by a family with walnut and almond faces and pipe cleaner bodies was one of the "conversation pieces" of this maternity floor's decorations. It was the work of staff nurse, *Katherine Bermingham*. In front of the doll house were three large cardboard carol singers made by *Lucia Ferrara*, head nurse, and *Mrs. Mary Muller*, staff nurse. The Nativity scene was reproduced in the largest room of the pavilion using cardboard figures, made by *Miriam Stucker*, attendant, and an over-the-bed table for a manger. Student nurses and patients helped to set up the tableau. *Aurum Organick* and *Stanley Birnbaum*, med Double windows in the waiting room showed Santa and his reindeer express-

students, did the angel and baby windows adjacent to the nurses' station. Nursery windows featured a painted Santa with cotton beard and cap trim by *Dolores Williams*, practical nurse, and traditional holly, etc. painted by *Marion Woodcock*, student nurse, and Miss Stucker. *LaVerne Stumpf*, staff nurse, did paintings on the doors of patients' rooms and *Delia Boczkowski*, staff nurse, supervised the hanging of hall streamers.

Payne Whitney: 4-N

There was much to see on this floor, decorated almost exclusively by patients. The judges on tour saw a white "billboard" (alias a ping-pong table turned on its side and draped with a sheet) bearing the first few bars and words of "Silent Night." The staff and clef were done in metallic paper and the notes were small Christmas tree balls. Along the corridor, long gold cardboard tapers with cotton wicks, fastened on the walls, vied for attention with five-pointed multi-colored stars strung from the ceiling. At the end of the "milky way" was a window sill tableau — a white church set in snow against a blue backdrop. The church was made of cardboard, painted white and coated while wet with cotton and artificial snow. Doors of adjacent rooms were "guarded" by angels with wooden spoon faces, and wearing gauze compress dresses, lace doily halos and gold paper wings. Doors to other rooms were trimmed with clusters of tinfoil-covered paper cup bells. 4-N also featured one of the most beguiling snowmen ever seen in these parts. He was made of bath towels (apologies to the laundry!) with a vase substituting for the traditional stovepipe.

Blood Bank

Spatter paint technique gave an effective stained glass look to the windows of the Blood Bank which showed peoples of many lands saying "Merry Christmas" in their native tongue. Execution of these colorful windows involved several steps: first, the making of original drawings by technicians *Ann Davis, Jacqueline Wehman* and *Jack Stuart*; then, the cutting of stencils by the entire staff (a separate stencil for each color used), and finally, the spatter painting itself — done by the group with toothbrushes and tongue depressors. Double windows in the waiting room showed Santa and his reindeer.



DIRECTORY	
CHRISTMAS CHEER VILLAGE	
BUSINESS SECTION	
Address	Name
401	Restaurant
401 1/2	Santa's Meat Shop
402	Santa's Barber Shop
403	Greeting Card Shop
404	Victrol
404 1/2	Holiday Shop
406	Reindeer Toys and Games
408	Food, Meat and Meat Sausages
409	THE THING Village Supplies
411	Santa's Comfort Station
411 1/2	Martini Business
412	Victrol
414	Candy Store
415	Shelton's



MORE BLUE-RIBBONS

Above: Entrances to the business and residential areas of Christmas Cheer Village on H-4.

Left: "Merry Christmas" from Mexico, one of the Blood Bank's U.N. windows.

Right: The manger on M-3.

Below: Window sill scene on 4-N, Payne Whitney; Santa and his helper on N-4.



Honorable Mentions

Pediatrics: N-2

Although the patients on this floor were too young to help — the oldest is 18 months — they acted as the inspiration for the delightful decoration theme, the story of "The Littlest Angel." A blackboard near the elevator announced the theme and as one rounded the corner, the story was unfolded on the windows of the rooms. At the end, one window was painted with a picture of the Holy City and below it was a Nativity scene fashioned from cotton snow. The theme was the "brainchild" of *Carol Frupp*, assistant head nurse, and it was executed by the entire nursing staff with particular credit going to student nurse affiliates, *Betty Harris*, *Beth* and *Betty Billings* and *Shirley Cobleigh*.

Payne Whitney: 7-S

With the cost of its decorations less than one dollar, this floor's Yuletide finery was a tribute to the ingenuity of patients and staff. Among the highlights was a cardboard box creche, its figures and props entirely handmade. Several paintings also caught the eye. Painted on a window by a patient, one village scene with a church in the background created an excellent illusion of distance. Another patient effort, this one in a hallway, was a coach scene straight out of a Dickens story, but with the figures in modern dress. *John Berthelson*, a nursing aide, did a wall mural of a snow-covered mountainside. Other items were a cotton and snow "village" atop a sideboard, shiny paper snowflakes on the walls and window decorations in every patient's room. *Carl Jones*, assistant head nurse, was assisted by *Tom McKee*, staff nurse, and Mr. Berthelson.

Woman's Clinic: M-1

A five-foot cotton snowman called "Frosty," welcomed visitors to this floor of new mothers. The corridors were lined with a forest of Christmas trees decorated with paper candles. Cut out by patients and "planted" by the nurses and nursing aides, the trees, on closer inspection, proved to be layers of crepe paper ribbon. A six-foot Christmas tree, made of wire and crepe paper, stood in the center of the corridor and was the work of *Mrs. Evelyn Maxey*, floor clerk; *Mrs. Olga Ricketts*, nursing aide, and *Dorothy Jackson*, head nurse.

Outside windows of each room were decorated with tiny cotton snowballs and a paper candle. Nursery windows were the handiwork of student and night nurses. Everyone cooperated but special mention should be made of the efforts of *Margaret Spahitz*, assistant head nurse, and *Helen Dewberry*, nursing aide.

Accounting Department

Any similarity between the glimmer of the lacy metallic ribbon decorations in the Accounting offices this Christmas and the sequins on milady's dress was no accident: the ribbon — left after sequins are stamped out — were secured from a manufacturer by *Maria Di Bella*. In addition to the lacy bows fastened to drapes and walls alike, there were other metallic bangles suspended from the ceiling on strings. Over file cabinets, *P. W. Gee* built a chimney from which a jolly Santa, made by *Philip Palese*, poked his head. Members of this busy office stayed after hours for several nights to make these decorations.

Clinics: Woman's Clinic OPD

Nurses and student nurses, medical and oral hygiene students, clerks and clinic aides — all pitched in to make this one of the most colorful and cheerful spots in the Hospital. In the conference room, the center of interest was a church scene in winter, done entirely in glistening white. This was centered between two windows on which the Nativity figures were painted in blue. The church, a cardboard structure overlaid with a coating of whipped soap suds dusted with silver "snow," and complete with a "stained glass" window and choirboys at the door, was the work of *Mrs. Barbara Keyes*, staff nurse. The window artist was *Grace O'Malley*, another nurse. On the door of the conference room, a painting of a choirboy in a red robe done by *Mrs. William Sweeney*, lab technician and wife of a staff doctor, was quite life-like. Med students contributed several windows and one decorated the fire-box glass with a skating scene. *Mrs. Barbara Crown* and *Patricia Stiglitz* of the nursing staff were other artists.

Clinics: Vincent Astor

Mrs. Roy Dickerson, registrar, and *Carol Fletcher*, laboratory technician, were the designers of the cheerful decor which the staff of Vincent Astor Diag-

nostic Service produced. Santa, in a paper sleigh, pulled by Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer, whose horns were made of branches and hung with tiny cellophane bells, dominated the L-1 corridor. The waiting room became a living-room at Christmas-time, with the appointment desk transformed into a fireplace hung with real stockings. The corridor clock was transformed into a cuckoo clock with pine cones on chains for pendulums; the little yellow cuckoo itself was made of toweling dipped in chemicals. The windows of the inner offices illustrated two popular holiday songs, "Sweet Angie, the Christmas Tree Angel," and "Rudolph." Snow scenes on the windows were sculptured out of granulated soap. Nor was the admitting office (F-168) neglected. Here, the outstanding feature was the window brightly painted with elves and angels by *Lee Rowland*, daughter of *Mrs. Madeline Rowland*, registrar of Private Ambulatory Service.

Main Hospital: G-3

"United Nations for Peace" was the timely theme here. This slogan was carried out along the corridor with room windows painted to represent some of the member nations of the U.N. Each window carried a "Merry Christmas" wish in the language of the country depicted, those of Iceland and Israel attracting the most attention. Israel's was by Nurse *Virginia Buffington*; many of the others were the work of patients. The door to the solarium, painted by *George Weinstein*, night orderly, showed a red brick fireplace and wished all comers a Merry Christmas in the one language they were sure to understand — English. *Catherine Connors* of the nursing staff made a small paper Christmas tree to brighten the nurses' station and *Mary Lawrence*, floor clerk, painted two windows.

Main Hospital: F-11

Working under the guidance of *Ellen Shindler* of the nursing staff, patients, nurses, orderlies and aides all pitched in to make this surgical floor look festive. Simplicity was the keynote, with wall decorations consisting of large tissue paper holly leaves and berries. These were cut out by the patients. The only variation was a Nativity scene mural on one wall, its blue tissue paper silhouettes the work of Miss Shindler.